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1985: Initial Survey and Background Noise

by

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Tonge's Island, Westmoreland County, New Brunswick 1985: Initial Survey and Background Paper.

by

Marc C. Lavoie

1986

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Abstract

A preliminary survey of Tonge's Island in Westmoreland County was undertaken in 1985. The survey team had hoped to identify the physical traces of Sieur Michel Le Neuf de La Vallière's seigneury (1676-1696). Documentary information regarding previous archaeological fieldwork and period documents have also been brought together into a summary of the region's potential contribution to the archaeological research of early Acadia.

Acknowledgements

A number of individuals must be thanked for their generous assistance and support contributed to the completion of the 1985 survey of Tonge's Island. Dr. Christopher J. Turnbull, Provincial Archaeologist, initiated the work and issued archaeological licence 1985NB-7. Also, he was one of my survey partners on Tonge's Island. Another was M. Fidèle Thériault, historian with the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage. Fidèle also made his vast historical knowledge of the area available; he was always happy to answer questions on the early history of Acadia. Another survey partner was Sam Gallagher, who also catalogued the artifacts retrieved during our survey.

Our search for artifacts and documentary evidence led us to the museum at Fort Beauséjour National Historic Site. Mr. Steve C. Ridlington, Superintendent of the Park, permitted us to examine the extensive museum's artifact catalogues and records.

Messrs. Rob Ferguson and Earl Luffman, both archaeologists with the Atlantic Regional Office of Environment Canada/Parks in Halifax, Nova Scotia, also provided assistance in our search for information on

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Tonge's Island gathered before 1985. Furthermore, Mr. Ferguson supplied data which led me to inquire about aerial photographic studies undertaken by a late faculty member of the Geology Department of Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

In late October 1985, M. Fidèle Thériault and I spoke with M. Pierre Nadon of *Les Recherches ARKHIS Inc.* M. Nadon had surveyed Tonge's Island in 1967. We spoke at length regarding possible Acadian sites in the Isthmus of Chignecto.

All this work would not have been possible without the interest shown in the history of Tonge's Island by its present owner, Mr. Jeff Vrient of Aurora, Ontario. Mr. Vrient kindly allowed us to survey the Island and shovel test the areas we deemed most promising. Also, while on Tonge's, Mrs. Henry Sootiens gave us permission to surface collect artifacts in her garden, around the house and farm buildings.

In Sackville, Mrs. Lilliane Brown—widow of Willet Brown, owner of the site for many years—provided Dr. Turnbull with anecdotes concerning a number of finds made on the island.

The present repot was prepared in the offices of the Archaeological Division, Provincial Parks and Historic Sites Branch of New Brunswick Tourism, Recreation and Heritage, in Fredericton. The published drawings were completed by Mr. Angel Gomez y Miguelañez; his work is excellent, as always.

Introduction

The 1985 archaeological survey of Tonge's Island was part of a continuing effort to locate archaeological remains of the earliest historic settlements in New Brunswick. This particular survey was preliminary in nature; it attempted to delineate the geographical limits of the site of Sieur de La Vallière's seigneury (1676-1696), particularly his seigneurial domain with the manor-house and its dependencies. Furthermore, in a concerted effort, the survey team attempted to amass and summarize data from previous archaeological and historical research into a background paper, thus laying foundations and, at the same time, providing direction for future research.

It had been known for a number of years that La Vallière's/Tonge's Island is an important historic site in New Brunswick. It was occupied by a major figure in Acadian history. Furthermore, having been occupied for a relatively short period, from 1676 to 1696, the material remains from the site would provide major insight into material goods obtained and used at the end of the seventeenth century in Acadia. Moreover, information on house style (at least floor plans) might be obtained. Faunal and floral analyses would also provide an idea of seventeenth-century Acadian diet.

Unfortunately, the preliminary field survey did not yield any of the physical traces we had hoped. Nonetheless, the background research has been initiated and we hope that more studies will follow.

Location

Tonge's Island is in the southwestern sector of Westmorland County, at the head of Cumberland Basin in New Brunswick (Fig.1). It is a low hill among the marshes and meadows west of the Missaguash River on the Chignecto Isthmus (Fig. 2).

The word "island", when referring to modern-day Tonge's Island area, is a misnomer. This low ridge, or

upland, was an island when the Bay of Fundy tides flooded the surrounding marshes. Today, the island is protected from the tides by a network of man-made dikes and drainage ditches.

Surficial Geology

It is difficult to state with exactitude when the marshes were formed in the Tonge's Island area. It appears that well-developed forest was submerged through a combination of land submergence, sea level fluctuations, evident at least 4,000 years ago (Rampton and Paradis 1981:33). "Extensive areas of intertidal mud and salt marsh along Chignecto Bay are probably due to the rising sea level and amplitudes of tides in the Bay of Fundy" (Rampton and Paradis 1981:33).

The actual provenience of the red mud and the existence of the extensive flats of this inorganic material results "from detritus brought from the sea by the rush of the tides...as...the soft rocks (in the Bay of Fundy) are rapidly eroded by strong tidal currents." (Ganong 1903:167-168). Accumulation of such sediments often exceeds 10m, 30m in low lying areas (Rampton and Paradis 1981:12).

In the same region are bedrock outcrops, often forming ridges, covered with patches of till, 0.5m to 1.5m thick, and few pockets of other unconsolidated deposits, around or exceeding 1.5m in thickness (Rampton and Paradis 1981:7). Monroe (1886:22-23) suggests that Tonge's Island is the summit of a ridge mostly buried under tidal mud. This seems plausible considering the presence of larger, but similar ridges, such as Cumberland Ridge near Tonge's Island. This would also explain the presence of similar boulders in the till in both locations.

Historical Sketch

Documentary Evidence

The following summary concentrates on the French occupation of Tonge's Island. It combines biographies of

prominent individuals with information about farmers and craftsmen, all contributing to the development of the Beaubassin Acadian community.

In 1672, Jacques Bourgeois instigated the first settlement in the Chignecto/Beaubassin region (Cormier 1969a:98). He had arrived in Acadia in 1642 and had made Port Royal his home. Bourgeois was a surgeon, but in Acadia he was also a farmer, shipbuilder and trader (Arsenault 1965:61; Cormier 1969a:98). In 1672, he sold a portion of his land holdings to finance his move to Chignecto. He was accompanied by two of his sons, three sons-in-law, and their families (Arsenault 1965:61).

Shortly after Bourgeois' arrival in Beaubassin, or perhaps later in 1674, Michel Le Neuf de La Vallière established a fur-trading post at the head of Chignecto Bassin (Arsenault 1965:62; Comeau 1969:409). Undoubtedly, La Vallière was aware of the potential of the trade. His official appointments and family connections facilitated his business endeavours.

La Vallière was born in Canada in 1640, the third son of Jacques Le Neuf de La Poterie, Governor of Trois-Rivières and, at times, acting Governor of New France (Lamontagne 1966:467). La Vallière was educated in France, whence he returned in 1657. Nine years later, while he was in command of Isle Royal (Cape Breton) and responsible to the trader Nicolas Denys, La Vallière married Denys' daughter, Marie. This union yielded eight children. Around 1683, after his first wife's death, La Vallière took a second wife, Françoise Denys, daughter of Simon, Nicolas' younger brother (Comeau 1969:409).

On October 24, 1676, Compte Louis de Buade de Frontenac, Governor General of New France, granted La Vallière a piece of land ten square leagues in area (151:92 km2), constituting the "Beaubassin Seigneury" (Comeau 1969:409). La Vallière's grant, however, stipulated that he was not to interfere with the "habitants" already established in the area (Coleman 1968a:4; Rumilly 1981:119). Between 1676 and 1678, La Vallière and his family settled *Ile Majogouetche* or *Missaquash*, later known at *Ile La Vallière* (F. Thériault, Personal Communication: October 2, 1985).

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Settlers came to Beaubassin from New France to develop La Vallière's seigneury. Soon they became familiar with Acadian diking methods. On the island, La Vallière had built a "modest manorhouse", a mill and other structures (Coleman 1968a:6; Rumilly 1981:119). In 1678, he donated a parcel of land to the Recollets so that a mission might be established (Ganong 1983:103).

It appears that from the time the seigneury was granted, La Vallière was fulfilling his obligations as a *seigneur*: securing the services of settlers, building a mill and donating land to the Recollets. It is probable that his tenants paid *rentes* and milling dues, "...the seigneur having exclusive right to build and operate a flour mill."(Trudel 1956: 12). The seigneur also reserved the right to fish and dues could be exacted for common pasture; finally, three days, four at the most were required as *corvée*, where *cencitaires* worked for the seigneur at no cost (Trudel 1956:12-13).

La Vallière also pursued other interests. He continued to be involved in the fur and coastal trade, using his schooner (?), the Saint-Antoine (Rumilly 1981:120). He also served military functions around the same time. In 1678, he was promoted commandant of Acadia (Comeau 1969:409). On August 5, 1683, he was appointed governor of Acadia, a post he occupied until April 4, 1684 (Coleman 1968a:6; Comeau 1969:409-410). La Vallière's appointment was of short duration because his official position conflicted with his continuing involvement in the trade; he had been selling fishing permits to New Englanders, to the Acadians' dismay and the French Crown's disapproval (Coleman 1968a; Daigle 1976:166; Rumilly 1981:128).

> "La Vallière maintained good relations with the governor of Boston, Simon Bradstreet; on 8 August 1684 he expressed to him his regret on learning from Bergier [administrator of the *Compagnie des Pêches Sédentaires de l'Acadie* and the individual who was most critical of La Vallière's trading activities], who had made a trip to France, that trade between the two colonies would shortly be forbidden." (Comeau 1969:410).

Trading relationships such as the one described above had been common earlier during the seventeeth century (Rumilly 1981; Webster 1934). (La Vallière's statement infers that trade "between the two colonies" was allowed (Comeau 1969:410)). This was not true, since the administrators of New France objected to the activities of New England traders in the Bay of Fundy (Rumilly 1981:125). However, La Vallière's activities were well organized, having a representative in Boston issuing fishing permits and collecting the fees for the French Governor (Daigle 1976:166).

Still in its infancy, Beaubassin appears to have flourished regardless of the difficulties experienced by its seigneur. The intendant of New France, Jacques De Meulles, visited Acadia in 1685-1686. His memoir on settlements provide us with an idea of the natural environment, Acadian life, and trade in Beaubassin:

> "...All around Beaubassin there is such a large quantity [sic] of meadows that one hundred thousand heads of cattle could be fed. The grass [hay] there is called *misotte*, quite appropriate to fatten all kinds of livestock.
>
> On both sides of the meadows are gentle hills covered with [growths of] hardwood. There, twenty-two dwellings have already been built, on small promontories that the settlers have chosen in order to have access to the meadows and woods.
>
> All settlers have three or four dwellings where they can reside, reasonable enough for the countryside. The majority [of settlers] already have twelve to fifteen cattle, ten to twelve pigs and an equal number of sheep...
>
> ...Most women also made *étamines* [wool and flax linens] from which they cloth themselves and their husbands. Most women also make [knit?] socks for their families, and refrain from buying them. They all wear Indian shoes which they make themselves.
>
> Every year, in April, an English bark brings them [the Acadians] *petites nécessités* [small/fine essential goods] which they buy with pelts obtained from the Indians. Flax canvas is also made there [Beaubassin]...." (De Meulles 1973: 381:382) (author's translation).

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According to De Meulles (1973:382), the New England merchants were from Boston. Undoubtedly, they were encouraged to trade by La Vallière, since he maintained good relations with the governor of that town.

Regarding *Ile La Vallière*, it seems that in 1685, five or six "habitants" resided there, some digging drainage ditches and building dikes in the marshes around the island (Fidèle Thériault, October 25, 1985: Personal Communication). La Vallière seems to have had the services of a gunsmith from the foundation of Beaubassin. Pierre Cyr practised his trade in Acadia from circa 1670-1680; Nicolas Perthuis, master gunsmith and locksmith resided in La Vallière's manorhouse in 1686, but had departed sometime before 1692, when he was in Pointe-aux-Trembles, near Montréal (Bouchard 1978:91; M. Fidèle Thériault, December 18, 1985: Personal Communication). Other residents of La Vallière's Island must have been servants.

La Vallière's tenants continued to exploit their concessions, but it appears that at least two of them did not wish to be responsible to La Vallière: Guyon Chiasson and Jean Aubin Migaux were either settlers or tennants hired in New France in 1676, but refusing to recognize La Vallière authority around 1682 (Arsenault 1965:62; 553,604). Their names appear on a March 20, 1682 summons, stating that they should be made to recognize and obey La Vallière; the same document lists eight other individuals: seven Acadians and one Irishman (P.A.C. - MG9-B9, Vol. 2, Assignation par Michel Le Neuf, 20 mars 1682).

From the settlement's inception, La Vallière's seigneurial authority was questioned and disregarded by many settlers in the Beaubassin area. It seems there would be no end to this. In 1698, Pierre Thibaudeau founded the settlement of Shepody (Rumilly 1981:172-173). His ownership was questioned by La Vallière's agent, Claude Sébastien de Villieu, but a 1703 court decision favoured Thibaudeau; he was indeed on La Vallière's land, but was allowed to retain his possessions "lands and rights of succession" (Cormier 1969b:629-630).

In 1690, La Vallière had left Beaubassin. He was captain of Frontenac's guards in the town of Quebec. It is probable that he never returned to reside on his seigneury. His name does not appear in the Acadian census of 1693 or 1698 (Coleman 1968a:7). In 1695, La Vallière was in command of Fort Cataracoui (Kingston, Ontario), but was back in Quebec in 1696, whence he left in the spring on the Buffonne with about 150 men, to harass "the enemy along the coast of Acadia" (Comeau 1969:410).

Sometime before his departure for Fort Cataracoui, La Vallière filed a declaration, dated June 27, 1695, with the Quebec City notary, Louis Chambalon. (A.N.Q. 1695). The documents lists La Vallière's personal effects in the Beaubassin manorhouse:

> Un couvre lit de drap rouge
> Un lit de moquette
> Trois chaises garnies de paille
> Deux chaises de bois de meurisier
> Une teste de bois e perruque
> quatre linceut de toile blanche
> Vingt-quatre serviettes haute lisse
> Deux nappes même façon
> Douze serviettes de toile blanche
> Douze serviettes de grosse toile oeuvré et une nappe
> Six serviettes de Morlay (?)
> Six plats destaing moyen
> Six assiettes creuses
> dix huit-assiettes
> deux salires
> deux cuillires letout destaing
> Une écuelle à orielles d'argent couverte
> Deux tables tournées de bois de meurisier
> Deux autres tables à boudet ou ouvale de bois de Pin
> quatre barriques vides
> une marmite de fer
> Une pair de grosses tenailles
> Un petit miroir de toilette garni de cuivre
> Trois ... (?) ... de castor
> Un arosoir pour le jardin garnyu de bandes de fer
> Un rateaux de fer pour le jardin
> (A.N.Q. 1695).

Why La Vallière made the declaration is not known. He may have wished to list his possessions in Beaubassin. At the time, he and his second wife lived in a residential district of the town of Quebec: Place Notre Dame (A.N.Q. 1695). No doubt they had smiliar belongings in their Quebec home. The effects listed in the declaration indicate that La Vallière was a wealthy individual possessing much furniture, linens, tablecloths and serviettes, pewter dishes, a porringer with silver handles and lid, a copper-framed mirror, an iron cauldron, large pliers and garden tools. Furthermore, "A wooden head for wigs" indicates that he and his wife could have worn wigs.

La Vallière continued to live in New France. Therefore, in September 1696, when William Church and New England troops attacked Beaubassin and laid it waste (Comeau 1969:410), La Vallière was not present to defend his tenants and property.

La Vallière was in dire need of financial support, but his plans for new Acadian business endeavours were never carried out (Comeau 1969:410). In the fall of 1704, La Vallière went to France on official and personal business. His seigneurial grant in Beaubassin was ratified June 2, 1705, still excluding land occupied by other settlers (Comeau 1969:410). Sometime in 1704 or 1705 La Vallière became very sick. One of his sons-in-law saw him in Versaille *malade à mourir et abandonné des médecins*, in June or July of 1705 (Gaillard 1932:105). It is purported that La Vallière died in July 1705 while he was returning to Canada (Comeau 1969:410). His descendants chose not to administrate the Beaubassin seigneury. It is not known if La Vallière's Island was occupied after Church's raid of 1696, but the Beaubassin community continued to flourish.

There were 127 peoples in Beaubassin in 1686, 271 in 1707 and in 1750 an estimated 600 Acadians, in an areas including both shores of the Missiguash River, Fort Beauséjour and Aulac (Clark 1968:123, Table 5.1; 143, Table 5.3; 222, Table 6.8). No doubt, Acadians continued to exploit the marshes, the exceptions would be rare. In

1701, the Sieur de Bonnaventure visited the Isthmus of Chignecto.

> "...At that time he found only one habitant farming the upland, but the fact that he regularly reaped a good harvest seemed to prove that the uplands were not as inferior as most of the inhabitants believed." (Coleman 1968b:8).

In 1731, Robert Hale travelled from Massachusetts to the Bay of Fundy. He visited Beaubassin (Checnecto), (Hale 1906:231). He spent two nights and a day in the village where there were 15 or 20 houses and two "Mass Houses or Churches" (Hale 1906:232). During his stay, he secured lodgings at the village tavern run by William Sears (Guillaume Cyr, son of Pierre Cyr, the gunsmith), (Hale 1906:232-233; M. Fidle Thériault, December 18, 1985: Personal Communication). Hale's journal provides the reader with interesting information on Acadian diet, housing and material life in Beaubassin:

> ... This night [sic] we lodg'd [sic] at Sear's [sic] again & supper we regaled with Bonyclabber, soop, Sallet, roast Shad, & Bread & Butter, & to day we din'd with Mr Asneau [Pierre Arsenault, a second generation, Beaubassin trader] at his Brother's upon roast Mutton, & for Sauce a Sallet, mix'd with Bonyclabber Sweetned with Molasses ... The women here differ as much in yr Cloathing [besides wearing of wooden Shoes].... They have but one Room in yr Houses besides a Cockloft, Cellar, & Sometimes a closet. Their bedrooms are made something after ye Manner of a Sailor's Cabbin, but boarded all around about ye bigness of ye Bed, except one little hold on the Foreside, just big eno' to crawl into, before which is a Curtain drawn & as a Step to get into it, there stands a Chest. They have not above two or 3 chairs in a house, & these wooden ones, bottom & all. I saw but two Muggs among all ye French & ye lip of one of ym was broken down above 2 inches. When they treat you with strong drink they bring it in a large Basin & give you a Porringer to dip it with. (Hale 1906:233-234).

Hale seemed to have enjoyed the victuals served by the Acadians. The latter's menu comprised foods

produced locally (bread and butter), meat from herded animals (sheep), fish from the basin (shad), and imported goods such as molasses, probably from the Barbados and available from English traders (Clark 1968:182). Also, some variety or change in dress was recorded in the journal: women wore wooden shoes, instead of "Indian shoes" (De Meulles 1973:381). The detailed description of a house (tavern/inn) might have been warranted because of major differences with New England dwellings. Hale (1906:203) mentions that mugs were rare and that a "strong drink" was served using a basin and a porrigner. Perhaps, the tavern keeper did not wish to display the best of his wares to his customers.

Throughout his visit, Hale was well received by all Acadians, who did not seem surprised to see a New Englander among them. Evidently, Hale did not expect problems, otherwise his travels would have been restricted.

Individuals from France and Canada were even more comfortable in Acadia. A general feeling of affinity existed, re-inforced by a common language and religion. Inducements to remain faithful to the French Crown were used, however, as the community of Beaubassin developed and feelings weakened. In 1731, Hale (1905:233) noted that Acadians said daily prayers, sometimes while others were "talking, & Smoaking & Ca". During the War of the Austrian Succession (1744:1748), France made an attempt to recapture Port Royal (Annapolis Royal) from the British. From Louisbourg came François Du Pont Duvivier, *Commandant des Compagnies franches*. While in Beaubassin, he managed to convince the Acadians not to act against the wishes to the French Crown, and persuaded ten volunteers to accompany him on his Port Royal expedition (Pothier 1982:73-74, note 9). The volunteers included people who had refused to pledge allegiance to the British. But, many Acadians refused to accompany Duvivier because it was harvest time, and Duvivier recognized that the crops should be taken in (Pothier 1982:74).

Four years after Duvivier's incursion into Acadia, a British officer, Charles Morris, produced a map which

"shows considerable settlement at Beaubassin or Old Chiegnecto—including two churches". (Coleman 1968a: 101). A British sketch of Beauséjour made in 1750, shows a windmill in the marsh, northeast of Tonge's Island, and a French solider standing guard on the northwest end of the island (P.A.C. P/250/ Beauséjour/1750, c-19941). Another sketch of the "French Fort Beauséjour" drawn in 1755, shows Acadian houses on the southern slope of Fort Cumberland Ridge: the majority of these dwellings have thatched roofs; another two houses are roofed with planks (P.A.C. P/250/Beauséjour/1755 c 19938). Also, Morris' map shows a bridge about six kilometres from the mouth of the Missaguash (Coleman 1968a:101).

The town of Beaubassin was burned at the time of Lawrence's expedition in April 1750. Lawrence reported that when he arrived most of the houses in the "Lower Town" had been reduced to ashes. This could, however, just refer to houses which were lower than others on the ridge. By the next day the whole town had been burned, "the Mass-House not excepted, though there were about a dozen houses standing to the right of it and later that day the rest of the buildings were burned." (Coleman 1968a:101-102). Coleman (1968a:102) suggests that Fort Lawrence (c.1750) was erected "on the site of the old town.". This would place the town of Beaubassin on the south shore of the Missaguash River, in Nova Scotia. Acadians fled to the north side of the river, where Fort Beauséjour had been completed a few months earlier (Rumilly 1983:236-238). There is little evidence to suggest that La Vallière Island was occupied. A 1750 view of Beaubassin, already discussed, shows a French soldier standing at one end of the island, probably observing Fort Lawrence; no structure of any kind can be seen on the island. As we will see in the cartographic section, one map shows dykes destroyed by the British. Therefore, it is assumed that the marshes surrounding La Vallière's Island was flooded in the 1750's. They would not be exploited by Acadian farmers.

The island was granted to Winkworth Tonge, a British Army engineer, on May 28, 1760; a 1787 report indicates that the entire island was under cultivation and

that Tonge's house and barn had been destroyed by an accidental fire (M. Fidèle Thériault, October 2, 1985: Personal Communication). It is perhaps these ruins or those of La Vallière's manor that Ganong (1983:68) described in 1899:

> **Old cellars, believed to be French, were visible until recently upon Tonges [sic] Island, particuarly towards it southern end. It is probable that here was the residence of La Vallière, Seignoir [sic] of Beaubassin for the island long bore his name.**

Cartographic Evidence

Under this rubric two types of maps will be discussed: first, illustrations produced during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, selected on the basis of their geomorphological and hydrologic accuracy. They reflect the importance of La Vallière's Island as a central area from which settlement expanded; also, the changes in the surrounding marshes. Twentieth century changes to the island are made evident through a comparison of two maps, both produced from aerial photographs: one was taken in 1931; the other in 1984.

De Meulles' Map of 1686.

During his 1685-1686 visit to Acadia, the intendant De Meulles produced a map of the Chignecto Isthmus, a section of which is reproduced here (Fig. 3). It shows three buildings on La Vallière's Island, occupying most of the upland. There is no indication that one of the three buildings is a manorhouse. Other structures and cultivated fields can be seen on Fort Cumberland (Beauséjour) Ridge; another house or a barn is shown on Fort Lawrence Ridge (Fig. 3). Plausibly, it represents the beginning of the village of Beauséjour, described by Robert Hale in 1731, and destroyed, at least partially, by Indians led by the priest *Le Loutre* in 1750.

De Meulles' map shows a large expanse of upland of marsh. Dikes and ditches are not shown. It is possible that the area reclaimed from the sea was insignificant in

1686. In his memoir, De Meulles (1973:381) describes the meadows as pastures, rather than land under cultivation.

Anonymous 1751.

On this map of 1751, only the outline of La Vallière's Island is shown (Fig. 4, left). Fort Beauséjour can be seen, where a number of structures were present on the 1686 De Meulles' map (Fig. 3 and 3 (left)). Fort Lawrence (Fort Laurent) is located on a ridge parallel to Fort Cumberland Ridge (Fort Beauséjour), (Fig. 4, left). *R. (R.) de Mefagouche* is the Missaguash River. There is no indication that Acadians were exploiting the marsh on this particular map.

Anonymous 1755(1).

Not unlike the 1751 map, this 1755 rendition of the same area shows the location of both forts, La Vallière's Island, cultivated fields (parallel, broken lines), dikes and ditches (parallel, solid lines surrounding fields), (Fig. 4, right). Also, a path or road—plausibly a large dike—runs from the southwestern extremity of Fort Cumberland ridge to the north bank of the Missaguash River (Fig. 4, right). The remains of the dike running parallel to Cumberland Basin might be illustrated on the 1931 plan of Tonge's Island (Fig. 6).

Anonymous 1755 (2). Contemporaneous with the plan discussed above, but not as detailed, this other 1755 rendition of the marsh shows dikes south and west of La Vallière's Island (Fig. 5, left). Other dikes can be seen on the south bank of the Missaguash, and Fort Lawrence is shown. (The meaning of the letters, "D, K, L" is not given on the photographic reproduction of this plan, and the original could not be located during our initial search; however, "K" (Fig. 5) might represent the dike in ruins on the 1931 plan (Fig. 6).

Map by R. L. Bruce, 1761.

This surveyor's plan displays the main topographic features of the marsh: the natural ridges, including Tonge's Island and a road from the southwestern end of

Fort Cumberland Ridge to a dike; the latter runs to Tonge's Island. Also, the *River Misiguash* (sic) is shown. Furthermore, Forts Lawrence and Beauséjour are clearly marked; the former had been abandonned by 1761, and the latter's fortifications had been improved (Fig. 5, right). Note that the networks of dikes and ditches illustrated in both 1755 plans (Fig. 4, right; Fig. 5, left), are not shown on the 1761 map (Fig. 5, right). Thus, is it plausible that these earthworks had collapsed by 1761, or that they were of minor importance and not deemed noteworthy by the surveyor. Hence, it is possible that man-made features were exaggerated on both 1755 plans, or overlooked in 1761 (Fig. 4, right; Fig. 5, left).

Aerial Views of Tonge's Island, 1931 and 1984.

Upon cursory examination of the 1931 and 1984 aerial views of Tonge's Island, dramatic changes in the topography and hydrology can be readily seen (Fig. 6 and 7). The marsh area is larger on the 1931 view, and not well drained. No doubt, this is due to the absence of drainage ditches—present in 1984—and the ruins of a dike at the southerly edge of the marsh, still partially fulfilling its function in 1931 (Fig. 6). The network of fully functional dikes is less complex in the 1931 view. Even though the resolution of the 1931 view is not as precise as that of 1984, the actual limits of Tonge's Island are clearer on the earlier view, probably because the land was under cultivation and drainage around the island was a problem yet to be resolved. Illustrative of the latter problems are furrows plowed toward a creek flowing into the Missaguash (Fig. 6). The creek is silted up in many areas in the 1984 view (Fig. 7).

On the island, the road leading from the farmhouse to the southerly tip of the island has remained essentially the same. Changes have been made to the farm house and a larger barn appears to have been constructed after 1931 and before 1984. The hay-barn present in 1931, west of the road in the middle of the island, is absent in 1984. (In 1982, the area was hayed and farmers indicated that they could see depressions. Perhaps one of the depressions was the area where the hay-barn once stood. Such

depressions were not visible in October of 1984, among the tall grasses).

The 1984 aerial view shows that the western slope of the island has not been farmed as it has reverted to shrubs (Fig. 7). In 1931, the extent of this growth was not as dramatic, being limited to the southwestern extremity of the island (Fig. 6). One of the most significant changes on the island was the addition in 1956 or 1957 of very large dikes taking in the southern extremity of the island, and enclosing the Missaguash River on both of its banks (Fig. 7). The clay used in the construction of these dikes was taken from either side of a dike as it was constructed: A steam-shovel, or similar machinery, built itself a mound from which it proceeded forward lengthening the mound into a dike, by dredging soil from the left and right sides of the mound and proceeding forward. (Such methods are still in use today as witnessed by the present author in Memramcook, New Brunswick and Menudie, Nova Scotia, in 1984). This method of dike construction, however, is no doubt detrimental to any material remains on the path of the mechanical equipment for reasons which should be quite evident. The southern tip of Tonge's Island was used as fill in the construction of the dike during the second half of the 1950's.

Discussion.

The cartographic evidence gathered to date indicate that there were structures on Tonge's Island in 1686. There was not another residence in that location until the last decades of the eighteenth cenutry, when Winkworth Tonge built a house and a barn, as indicated by documents. However, it appears that diking around Tonge's Island was carried out during the eighteenth century. The twentieth century changes to the area can be described as major. Earthworks such as the dikes described above had never been erected around Tonge's Island.

18- Tonge's Island: 1985

Archaeology

Previous Archaeological Work

In 1967, M. Pierre Nadon, archaeologist for Parks Canada, surveyed Tonge's Island. He conversed with Mr. Henry Sootiens, owner of the site since 1959, and with Mr. William Brown, who had resided on the island for 70 years prior to the Sootien's ownership (Nadon 1968:28-29). Nadon (1968) did not recognize any surficial feature indicating either La Vallière's or Tonge's occupation; although his informants were most interested in the history of the island, they did not recall seeing ruins.

1985 Archaeological Activities

From October 2 through to the 4th, 1985, and from the 10th to the 11th of the same month, an archaeological survey of Tonge's Island was undertaken. This survey was preliminary in nature; it attempted to locate surficial features representing La Vallière's occupation, from 1676 to 1696. The entire upland was surveyed and certain areas were shovel tested--with no luck.

Surface Collections.

During the survey, artifacts were surface collected from the vegetable garden north of the Sootien's residence, on the grounds around the same house, and in the immediate vicinity of the farm buildings, east of the house. This area is classified as B1Db2. The majority of the artifacts are modern, including colourless and green bottle glass, undecorated white refined earthenware and white ironstone flatware, one unidentified red-bodied coarse earthenware vessel, and a twentieth century procelain bowl of unknown origin. One of the white refined earthenware fragments qualifies as a late pearlware, because of its yellowish-white body and a blue-tinged lead glaze. It was probably made after 1800 and before 1830, or earlier.

Two stem fragments from clay tobacco pipes were also recovered during the surface collection. Both are of

white ball clay and bear impressed maker's marks: one exhibits "...c Dougall" (McDougall) on one side of the stem, while the other side reads "Glasgow" (BdDb2:3). This pipe was produced by the firm of Duncan McDougall, in operation from 1846 to 1967 (Walker and Walker 1969). The presence of the word "Glasgow" rather than "Scotland" on this specimen indicates that it was made sometimes between the years 1846 and 1891. In 1891 the United States passed the "McKinley Traffic Act" which required all imported goods "...to bear the name of their country of origin..." (Walker 1977:18). In Glasgow, the Act caused pipemakers to replace "Glasgow" with "Scotland" (Walker 1977:18). After 1891, "Scotland" appeared on clay pipes regardless of their destination, but the markings were discontinued in the present century, except where required by law (Walker 1977:18).

Another clay pipe shows a different mark—"23" (B1Db2:2). This refers to pipe style "23" produced by an unidentified pipemaker. Nineteenth century and later tobacco pipe catalogues indicate that many firms used numbers and other markings to identify particular pipe style (Walker 1977:18-19). This suggests that the Tonge's Island specimen was produced during the nineteenth century or later.

Metal artifacts in the collection include a wrought iron wedge (22cm long, 1.5cm wide), two iron nails and an equal number of spikes, both varieties having square cross-sections. A round-shafted steel-wire nail and a spike were also recovered. One tin or copper button backing, 3.0cm in diameter, was also collected (B1Db2:11). Finally, a copper washer, 1-2cm in diameter, was retrieved. The metal artifact collection represents objects produced during the nineteent and twentieth centuries.

The last artifact from the Tonge's Island surface collection is a fragment of a child's school slate. It is about 4 mm thick and one of its surface exhibits three parallel incised lines, 4mm apart. It is plausible that this slate was also used during the nineteenth century or later.

Lithic.

One chert flake was surface collected (BdDb2:23). It was retrieved from the garden north of the house. Undoubtedly, this discovery indicates that native peoples were on the island in the past.

Shovel Tests.

The south slope and especially the southwestern sector of the island was also shovel tested. The stratigraphic sequence was as follows:

1). Brown humic/organic layer, about 20cm deep (0-20cm);

2). 20cm deep orange sandy soil with black (manganese and iron?) blotches and some sandstone pebbles (circa 20-40cm);

3). bright orange sandy soil with pink lenses (40-50 cm), not fully excavated in any of the test pits.

During the excavations large charcoal fragments were unearthed in the second soil layer. These finds, however, were quite rare. Furthermore, charcoal fragments always seem to be isolated where such a fragment was located other shovel tests were dugs in close proximity to the pit where charcoal had been located. The supplementary tests never yielded more charcoal. Therefore, the unusual finds are quite sparse on the south and southeastern sector of Tonge's Island.

No artifact was retrieved from any of the shovel tests described above. However, a creamware fragment was unearthed in a man-made mound at the crest of the upland; also, aluminium foil and plastic fragments were retrieved from a modern midden at the end of the road leading to the southeastern extremity of the island.

The north slope of Tonge's Island was not tested. It is very rocky and covered with low bushes, hay and wild grass. This area should also be tested, since we do not know the location of the seventeenth century buildings erected by La Vallière.

Discussion and Conclusions

The preliminary research presented in the previous pages leaves the reader with different types of historical facts: the biographical information on the prominent figures in seventeenth century Beaubassin—La Vallière, Bougeois—and other historical notes on individuals such as the settlers, tenants and craftsmen, convey a history of persons, of people. The disputes that ensued between La Vallière and his tenants provide an idea of local politics. The life of the ordinary man was influenced by the whims of the seigneur—in this case, essentially an absentee landlord. Acadian's everyday life was also influenced by the requests made upon them by visiting military figures, such as Duvivier in 1744. There were, no doubt, great disturbances in everyday life when the area around Tonge's Island essentially became a no-man's land, just south of the military frontier defined by the French Fort Beauséjour and its outposts, and north of the British Fort Lawrence, in the 1750's.

Another picture, that of the larger settlement of Beaubassin, is also brought to light, because La Vallière initally attempted to administrate his seigneury. This type of history is not only local politics, but also local human geography: the extent of the seigneury becomes known and the land is described; also, the manner in which the land is exploited by Acadians is brought into light, especially through descriptions of the physical environment.

In my search for a history of the events from the birth of the settlement to its demise, 1676 to 1755, I have presented a chain of unique events constituting a fairly standard type of history. Archaeology can bring to light everyday life, subsistence and economic activities through a study of the material remains on Tonge's Island, once these are located. We would move away from a "traditional history", with its major events and biographies to one of everyday, social and economic life (Braudel 1969:128), through a study of La Vallière's

occupation over a period of about 20 years. Much information can be gained from the practice of both types of history.

Recommendation

The limited archaeological activities on Tonge's Island suggests that other surveys be conducted on the north slope of this upland. This area was not heavily disturbed in the recent past, considering the evidence from aerial photographs (Fig. 6 and 7). Perhaps the remains of La Vallière's seigneury and Tonge's farmstead are to be found on this slope of the upland. Shovel testing should continue until such time when seventeenth century and later artifacts are located; then, controlled excavations would ensue.

A resistivity study or the use of ground penetrating radar would surely be beneficial. Such studies would reduce the extend of the physical search, concentrating in the survey team's efforts in potential "hot spots".

Once the remains of La Vallière's occupation are located, we will gain an understanding of about 20 years of Acadian population development in the Chignecto Isthmus, in the late 1600's. We are barely beginning to possess such an understanding for eighteenth century Acadian sites. A complete picture must include an understanding of this nascent Acadian community.

Figure 1: General Location of Tonge's Island

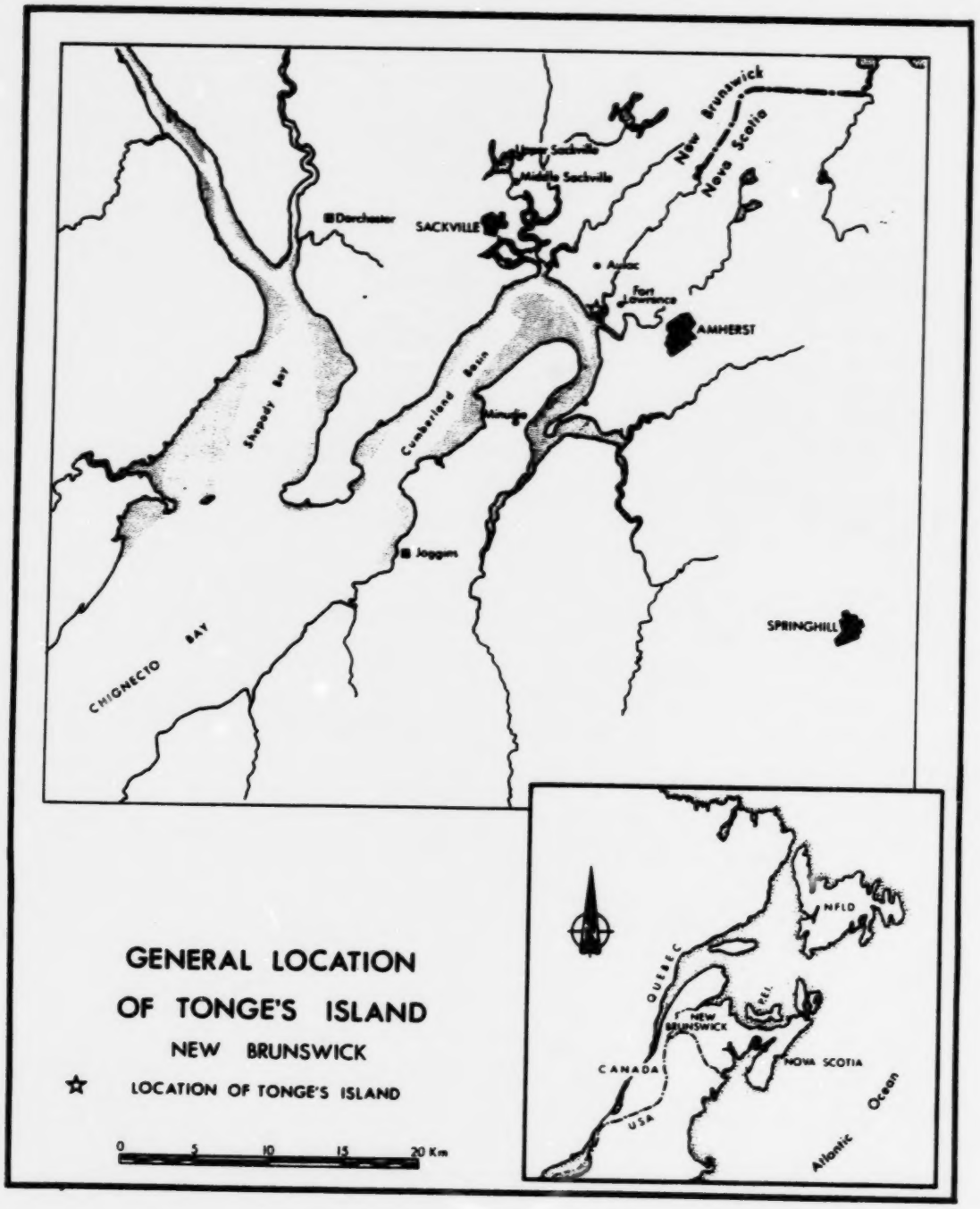

New Brunswick
Nova Scotia
Upper Sackville
Middle Sackville
Dorchester
SACKVILLE
Aulac
Fort Lawrence
AMHERST
Shepody Bay
Cumberland Basin
Joggins
SPRINGHILL
CHIGNECTO BAY
NFLD
QUEBEC
NEW BRUNSWICK
CANADA
NOVA SCOTIA
USA
Atlantic Ocean
GENERAL LOCATION
OF TONGE'S ISLAND
NEW BRUNSWICK
LOCATION OF TONGE'S ISLAND
0 5 10 15 20 Km

Figure 2: Tonge's Island, Amherst/Aulac area

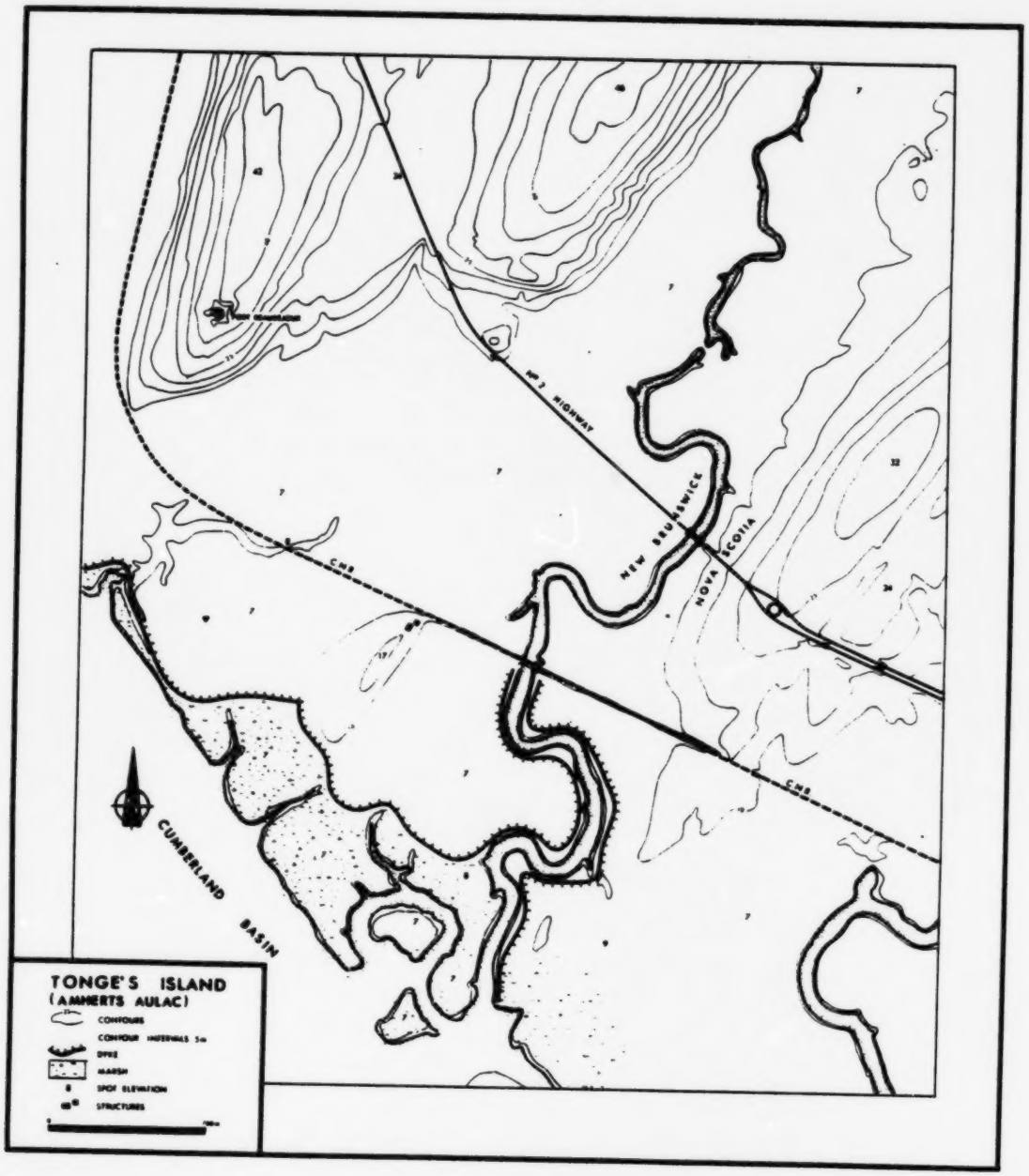
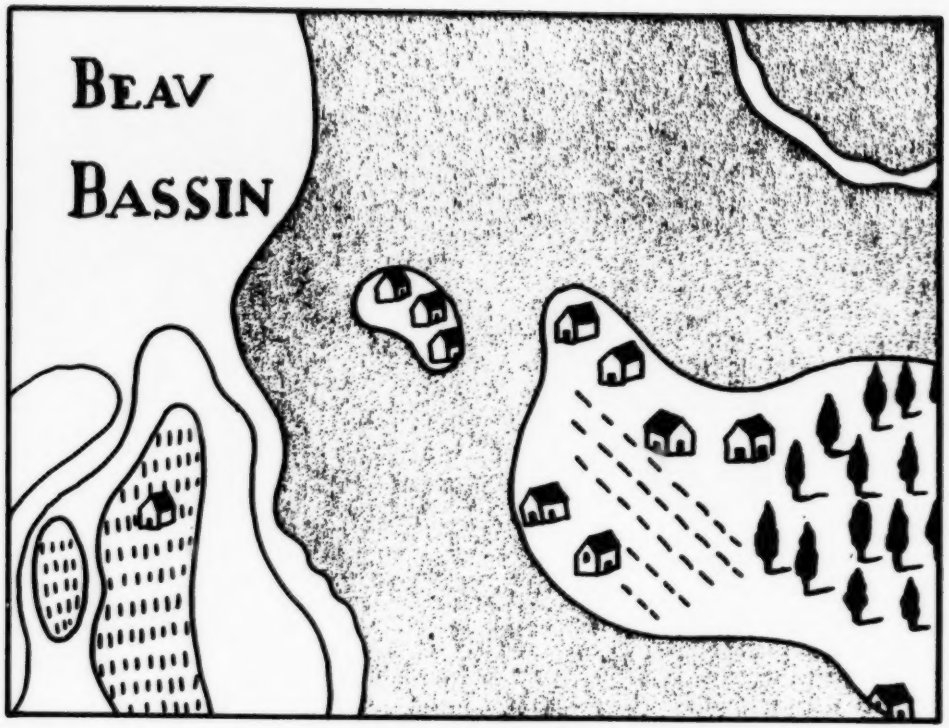
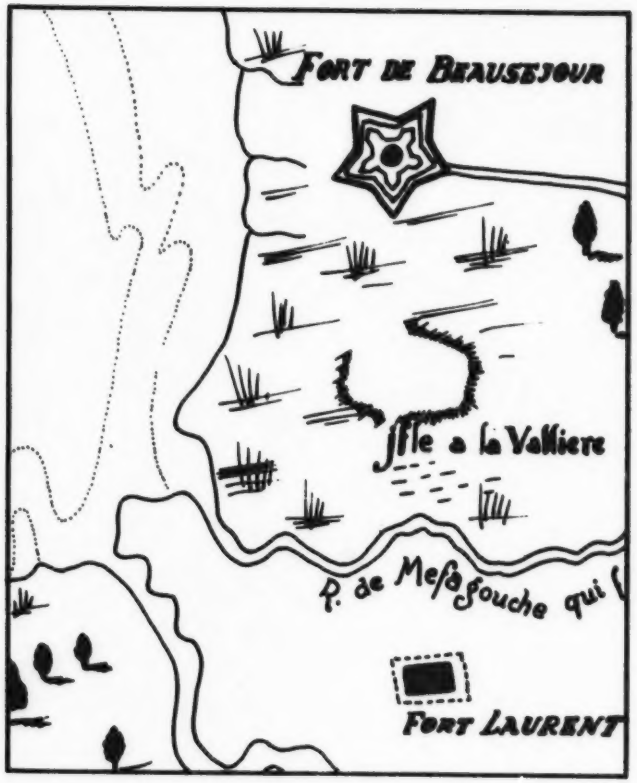

TONGE'S ISLAND
(AMHERTS AULAC)
CONTOURS
CONTOUR INTERVALS 5m
DYKE
MARSH
SPOT ELEVATION
STRUCTURES
NO. 2 HIGHWAY
NEW BRUNSWICK
NOVA SCOTIA
CNR
CNR
CUMBERLAND BASIN

Figure 3: A section of De Meules (sic) map of 1698, (P.A.C. V1/205 (1686) - 34214). Three structures can be seen on La Vallière's Island.

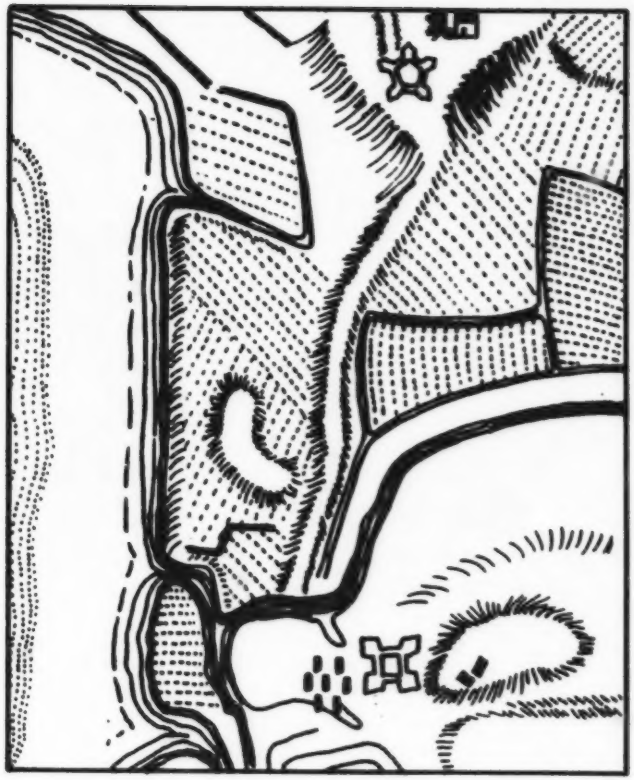


DE MEULES 1686

Figure 4: A section from a 1751 map of the settlements at the head of Cumberland Basin, (left), (P.A.C. H3/205 (1751). Right, essentially the same area, four years later (P.A.C. H3/205/ 1755 -- 229).

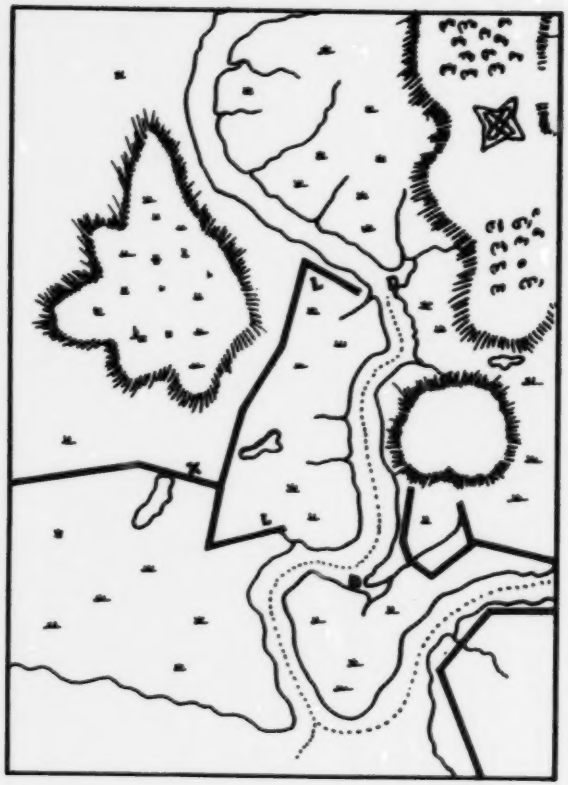


ANONYMOUS 1751



ANONYMOUS 1755

Figure 5: A section of another 1755 map of the settlements at the head of Cumberland Basin (P.A.C. V1/205 - (1755), St. Lawrence). Right, a section from R. L. Bruce's 1761 map of the same area (P.A.C. PH/205/1761).



ANONYMOUS 1755

R. L. BRUCE 1761

Figure 6: A detailed aerial view of Tonge's Island, from a 1931 photograph. (The north arrow should point to the upper left corner of the illustration, rather than in its present position.

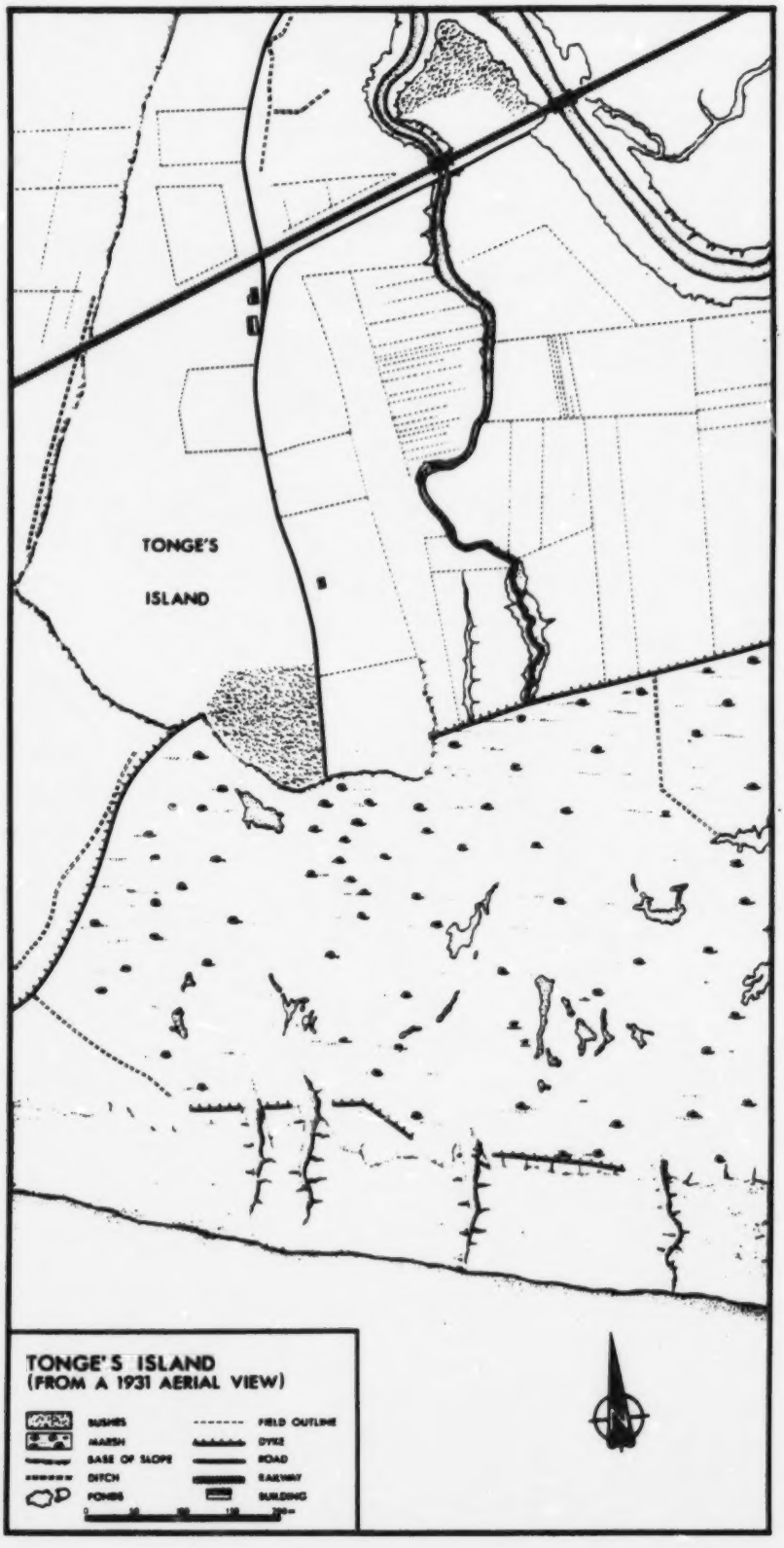

TONGE'S
ISLAND
TONGE'S ISLAND
(FROM A 1931 AERIAL VIEW)
BUSHES
MARSH
BASE OF SLOPE
DITCH
PONDS
FIELD OUTLINE
DYKE
ROAD
RAILWAY
BUILDING
N

Figure 7: Aerial view of Tonge's Island from a 1984 photograph. (The north arrow should be pointing upwards the upper left corner of the illustration).

TONGE'S ISLAND
(FROM A 1984 AERIAL VIEW)
DRAINAGE PONDS
BUSHES
MARSH
BASE OF SLOPE
DITCH
PONDS
MODERN DYKE
FIELD OUTLINE
DYKE
ROAD
RAILWAY
BUILDING
N

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